SWAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:

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Date: March 11, 2003

SWAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The primary role of Swan Lake Provincial Park is to provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities in a natural setting to regional and local users, including visitors from across the Alberta border. Tourists from Alberta form a significant portion of the visitors who stay at Swan Lake Provincial Park (up to 40% of visitation) due to its proximity to the Alberta border. This is significant for the operation of the park, and viability. Activities include camping, fishing, swimming, and other water activities. The 67 ha park is located 35 km southeast of Dawson Creek, and provides a rest stop and camping area for travelers heading to Tumbler Ridge. The park provides public access to the lake and it is the only public boat launch and parking lot on the lake.

There are opportunities for park users to view and appreciate the natural values of the park. Trees, shrubs and vegetation are representative of the area, and include aspen, willow, birch, pine and spruce.

The park provides important bird habitat, including a stopover area for migratory birds. The park provides an opportunity for bird watching and wildlife sightings. During the spring and summer months, a variety of raptors, songbirds and other perching birds frequent the area. Waterfowl can also be identified on the lake. Large mammals that frequent the area include moose, deer, and black bear. Most likely sightings are of smaller mammals such as squirrels, chipmunks, beaver, snowshoe hares and muskrat. Fish species present in Swan Lake include unstocked walleye and northern pike.

Secondary Role

The secondary role of the park is to ensure that the cultural history of the region is acknowledged and protected, as well as protection of habitat. Swan Lake Provincial Park is a historical site of extensive First Nations use, both pre and post-European settlement. There were numerous First Nations groups who traveled through the region and settled around the lake. Excavations at Swan Lake Provincial Park have unearthed various artifacts, bones and other items belonging to past First Nations groups. An archaeological interest was initiated, and any development in the park has included a careful search of the grounds prior to disturbing the earth. The recovered pieces have been sent to the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria and the Fort St. John museum.

Habitat conservation is an important aspect of maintaining Swan Lake Provincial Park. The BWBSmw 1 is poorly represented in British Columbia, covering only 0.68% of the province. Swan Lake Provincial Park is one of 22 parks that represent this area. Swan Lake Provincial Park is located within the very poorly represented Kiskatinaw Plateau Ecosection. Only 2.57% of this ecosection is protected and Swan Lake Park contributes only 0.31% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection.

Known Management Issues	Response
Weekend security of campground and day use areas	• Spot checks on weekends by rangers or volunteers
High use; lack of group campsite	• Construct a group campsite
Low use of shelter and picnic area	• Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of converting the area into additional campsites
Single point of public access to the lake; Overcrowding	• Consider campground expansion
Low level of lake stewardship	• Encourage local participation through adequate signage and education
Management of weir and water levels; lease with BC Fisheries, Regional District and Ducks Unlimited	• Coordinate weir and water levels with other agencies
Concern about the foreshore due to jet skis causing an impact to the beach area.	• Work with interest groups to identify methods for mitigating the effect of jet skis.

Zoning

The entire park (67 ha) is zoned Intensive Recreation.

CONSERVATION

Representation		
• ecosection		Provides minimal representation of the poorly represented Kiskatinaw Plateau Ecosection (2.57%). Swan Lake Park contributes only 0.31% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection. Quality of representation is poor due to the small size of the park.
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant		Provides minimal representation of the very poorly represented BWBSmw1 (0.68%). Quality of representation is poor due to the small size of the park.
Special Feature		
Rare/Endangered Values	X	Tupper River rearing area, unstocked walleye
Scientific/Research Opportunities		

RECREATION

Representation:		
• backcountry		
• destination	X	Weekend and holiday
• travel corridor	X	Located 4 km off Highway 2 near BC/Alberta border
• local recreation	X	Recreation day use, camping and fishing High weekend use
Special Opportunities	X	Provides local public access to the lake
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	X	Wildlife viewing, trails

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation		
Special Feature	X	Important archaeological site; artifacts in museum third oldest park in the BC system (1918)

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations		
Relationship to Other PAs		
Co-operative Management Arrangements	X	Sudeten Provincial Park

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area:	67 hectares
Date of establishment:	March 21, 1936 (although the area was originally reserved on June 19, 1918, making it the third oldest park in the region)

Zoning Map - Swan Lake Provincial Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Intensive Recreation
Protected Area Boundary

Produced in Feb 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSRM Decision
Support Services

This is a visual representation
only and should not be used for
legal purposes